REMARKS

Claims 1-74 are currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 24, 27, 29, 60, 64 and 67 have been amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-16, 18-21, 24, 25, 27-58, 60-65, 67-70, 72 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Weiss (USPN 5, 611, 730). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The amendments to claims 1, 24, 27, 60, 64 and 67 have been amended for the purposes of clarification.

Claims 1-38, 60-68 and 73-74 describe a modular tilt handling system that is implemented on a gaming machine used to play games. For example, claim 1 recites a gaming machine with a master gaming controller used to generate a game of chance a modular tilt handling system that is loaded from the memory to the RAM by the operating system; said modular tilt system comprising; first gaming software elements for receiving an event and determining when the event is a tilt and second gaming software elements for responding to the tilt wherein the first gaming software elements are decoupled from the second gaming software elements in a manner that allows the gaming machine to load from the memory second gaming software elements that are in compliance with the regulations of a gaming jurisdiction in which the gaming machine is operating without altering the first gaming software elements. In the present invention, one advantage of decoupling the first gaming software elements from the second gaming software elements in the modular tilt handling system and having the capability to load from memory to RAM the modular tilt handling system and its associated components is that the gaming machine may be shipped with tilt responses that comply with a plurality of gaming jurisdictions and may simply load the tilt responses that correspond to the jurisdiction. Further, a response to a tilt event may be changed without changing the software for determining the tilt. This simplifies the code development and regulatory approval process, which is a significant portion of the costs for game development.

In traditional gaming machines, such as taught by Weiss, a custom EPROM containing gaming software such as the tilt handling software is developed for each jurisdiction. The gaming software is executed from the EPROM. Any changes to the tilt handling software require

the development of a new custom EPROM and resubmission of the EPROM containing the gaming software for regulatory approval.

In Weiss, Col. 11, 31-35, the critical electronics including the motherboard, EPROM and any other programmable boards for the slot machine are located behind a logic door. The EPROM, as described above, is where the gaming software used to generate a game of chance is typically located in a traditional gaming machine. The details of the game generation software used by the master gaming controller in a gaming machine are not described in Weiss. The Examiner states that Weiss, FIG. 3:82 and Column 6:8-25, teaches a master gaming controller on a gaming machine. However, it can be seen clearly in FIG. 3 and its description that the master game controller 82 is not even located on a gaming machine. Its function, Col. 8:43-55, is to control communications for a progressive system. In Weiss, the master controller 82 does not generate a game of chance or handle tilts.

As described claims, 1-29, 64-68, of the present invention, the gaming machine loads into RAM for execution gaming software elements used i) to generate the game of chance played on the gaming machine and ii) to provide the tilt handling. In Weiss, the tilt handling system and the game generation system are decoupled. In Col. 12: 28-33 of Weiss, it states, the slot machine microcontroller assembly 140, which implements the soft tilt operation, is electrically isolated from the game and cannot interfere with the normal mode or method or operation of the game. Thus, in Weiss, the tilt handling and the game generation are handled by separate elements. These elements do not share a common RAM. Thus, Weiss does teach the limitations found in claims 1-29 and 64-68.

In addition, Weiss does not describe the software architecture of its tilt handling system in enough detail to determine if it describes limitations, such as described in claim 1, "wherein the first gaming software elements are decoupled from the second gaming software elements in a manner that allows the gaming machine to load the second gaming software elements that are in compliance with the regulations of a gaming jurisdiction in which the gaming machine is operating without altering the first gaming software elements" or details of the tilt handling system, described in claims 29-63 and 69-74, such as a tilt controller, a tilt manager, a tilt handler list and a tilt object. These claim elements are defined in the specification of the present invention and the Applicant respectfully questions whether the Examiner has pointed out in Weiss these elements of the modular tilt handling system of the present invention according to how they are defined in the specification of the present invention. Therefore for at least these reasons, Weiss can't be said to anticipate claims 1, 2, 4-16, 18-21, 24, 25, 27-58, 60-65, 67-70, 72 and 73 and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.
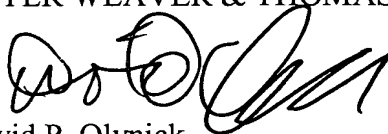
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 17, 23, 26, 59, 66, 71 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss (USPN 5, 611, 730) in view of Brunner, et al.

The capabilities in Brunner recited by the Examiner, such as the abilities to display tilts, does not overcome the deficiencies described above with respect to Weiss. Further, Brunner teaches executing the game software from EPROMs, which teaches away from the present invention. Therefore, for at least these reasons Weiss and Brunner or the combinations of Weiss and Brunner can't be said to render obvious the inventions as recited in claims 3, 17, 23, 26, 59, 66, 71 and 74 and the objection is believed overcome thereby.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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